



## MINUTES

### CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION OCTOBER 20, 2010

**Call to Order/  
Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Siersema, who led Commissioners and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Commissioners Present:** Commissioners Herbel, Kirkorn, McGovern, O'Connell, Rivera, Siersema, and Spencer were in attendance.

**Others Present:** Tony Olmos, City Engineer  
Bob Stachelski, Transportation Manager  
Todd Broussard, Principal Civil Engineer  
Jim Wagner, Senior Civil Engineer  
Andrew Ferrigno, Senior Civil Engineer  
Joyce Greene, Administrative Assistant

#### B. PRESENTATIONS-COMMENDATIONS

None

#### C. MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Herbel to approve the minutes of September 15, 2010 as presented.

VOTE: The motion carried.  
AYES: 5  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 2 (Kirkorn, Spencer)

#### D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

#### E. DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

None

Chair Siersema informed the Public Works Commission that citizens were in attendance to speak to items G-2, G-3, and G-4. He requested those items be moved forward.

Motion by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Herbel to hear items G-2, G-3, and G-4 out of agenda order.

VOTE:           The motion carried.  
AYES:           7  
NOES:           0  
ABSENT:        0  
ABSTENTIONS: 0

## **G. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Items G-2, G-3, and G-4, are all marked crosswalk items. Bob Stachelski, Transportation Manager, provided general information regarding crosswalks.

The Public Works Commission is the hearing body to meet State requirements for consideration of removal of a marked crosswalk. Guidelines are from the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Notification to the public is by signage posted at the location of the proposed marked crosswalk removal. The Public Works Commission will direct staff with its decision; however, the decision is appealable to the City Council within ten days of the decision.

A marked crosswalk gives the pedestrian the right-of-way by State law. An unmarked crossing gives equal burden to the driver and the pedestrian. Roadway markings and signage alert the driver of a marked crossing. It is the opinion of staff that a marked crossing can give a pedestrian a false sense of security and may encourage a pedestrian to use less care in crossing.

All three locations being presented this evening previously had crossing guards. In the spring of 2010, the City Council reduced the number of crossing guards by seven. Since that decision, the crossing guard at the Springdale/Croupier location has been reinstated. City Council acted on the recommendation of the Police Department and city staff for crossing guard elimination at the seven locations. Discussion ensued.

- G-2. Retention of Marked Crosswalk at Heil Avenue and Silver Lane/Thames Lane – Over the years the number of pedestrians using the crossing has declined. The crossing guard at the location noted low school pedestrian use and felt there

was no longer a need for crossing guard service at this location. Signage notifying the public of the consideration of marked crosswalk removal has been in place since August 16, 2010.

Commissioner O'Connell inquired why the crossing guard was removed and asked if it was for funding reasons. Bob Stachelski responded all crossing guards are funded through the Police Department. The Police Department and Transportation staff worked together to determine the locations for recommendation of elimination of crossing guard service. Staff felt this location appropriate for crossing guard elimination due to the low volume of student pedestrians using the crossing. Discussion ensued.

There are currently 25 uncontrolled crossing locations on arterial streets. Pedestrians are encouraged to use traffic signal locations for a controlled crossing. The removal of marked crosswalks could encourage such pedestrian crossing at some locations. Bob Stachelski informed the Commissioners that crossing at this location even without the marked crosswalk would not be considered jaywalking.

Commissioner Kirkorn inquired if there was consideration in how far the distance would be to a controlled crossing. Commissioner Rivera agreed with the safety concern expressed by Commissioner Kirkorn and the belief that due to the distance, pedestrians would not continue on to the controlled crossing.

Motion by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Herbel to support the staff recommendation to remove the marked crosswalk at Heil Avenue and Silver Lane/Thames Lane.

VOTE:	The motion was defeated.
AYES:	3 (Herbel, McGovern, Rivera)
NOES:	4 (Kirkorn, O'Connell, Siersema, Spencer)
ABSENT:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	0

- G-3. Retention of Marked Crosswalk at Garfield Avenue and Suva Lane – Bob Stachelski presented the item. The recommendation is to remove the marked crosswalk at this location. Marked crosswalk locations were observed to see if it meets current crossing guard guidelines. The observation noted very low crossing use by students. The closest controlled crossing is approximately 700 feet east at Ward Street and Garfield Avenue. As this crossing is used by students in the Fountain Valley School District, the district was notified of the consideration of removing the marked crosswalk. Signage of consideration for the marked crosswalk removal was posted August 16, 2010.

Resident Scott Anderson spoke against the removal of the marked crossing.

Commissioner Kirkorn stated he feels the marked crosswalk should be retained. He feels there are hazards with and without the marked crosswalk.

Commissioner O'Connell expressed he is not in favor of removing any marked crosswalk. He also expressed concern over seniors in the area trying to cross the street. He suggested installing a blinking light at the location.

Chair Siersema inquired about the trial in-road flashing crossing installed at another location. Bob Stachelski responded there has not been a significant increase in the number of pedestrians using that crossing location. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Commissioner Spencer, seconded by Commissioner McGovern to support the staff recommendation to remove the marked crosswalk at Garfield Avenue and Suva Lane.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	4 (Herbel, McGovern, Rivera, Spencer)
NOES:	3 (O'Connell, Kirkorn, Siersema)
ABSENT:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	0

- G-4. Retention of Marked Crosswalk at Magnolia Street and Pioneer Drive – Bob Stachelski presented the item. Staff recommends retaining the marked crossing and changing the signage and pavement legends from “school” to “pedestrian”. The location is a school crossing used by students in a range of 1-15 students per day. The location is a multi-lane highway. The alternative controlled crossings are at Yorktown Avenue or Adams Avenue. Signage was posted on August 16, 2010 that the marked crosswalk was under consideration for removal.

Callers to the city provided information on non-school activity at the school site that involved a substantial number of crossings at this location.

Resident Chris Gandall spoke in favor of retaining the marked crossing.

Resident Laurie Johnson spoke in favor of retaining the marked crossing.

Motion by Commissioner O'Connell to keep the crosswalk and to see what can be done to increase safety at this location. There was no second to the motion.

Commissioner Kirkorn stated he agreed the marked crosswalk should be retained. He stated his opinion is it should not come back in the spring to be

reevaluation for removal but for enhancement and a study to include weekend and evening use of the marked crosswalk.

Chair Siersema recommended staff purchase a portable video camera that could be moved to different locations to obtain traffic counts at various marked crosswalk locations. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Commissioner Kirkorn, seconded by Commissioner O'Connell to support the staff recommendation to:

1. Retain current marked crosswalk
2. Modify signs and pavement legends from "school" to "pedestrian" crossing treatment; and
3. Amendment to recommendation 3 to read "Conduct additional pedestrian use observations and reevaluate the need for enhancements at the crosswalk in the Spring of 2011."

VOTE:	The amended motion carried.
AYES:	7
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	0

## **F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- F-1. Active Capital Project Report – Tony Olmos provided updates on various projects and then ask the Commissioners for any questions.

Commissioner Rivera inquired about the project under construction at Adams and Bushard. Tony Olmos responded that is a Gas Company project. The Gas Company was performing inspection of its underground pipes and found some repairs were required. The repair involves pipe wrapping.

Commissioner Herbel commented on the traffic flow west bound on Adams being very poor in the evenings as the traffic control cones were not removed. The area is experiencing major traffic backup and suggested signage be installed indicating a delay to traffic. Travis Hopkins responded staff will contact the Gas Company regarding the delays and will provide the response to the Commissioners.

Chair Siersema suggested the city place information on the city web site relating to construction projects that can impact traffic. Travis Hopkins responded he is working with the Public Information Office on making information available on the city web site.

- F-2. Citywide Pavement Management Program – Todd Broussard presented the item including a PowerPoint presentation. The program rates the condition of city owned and maintained streets and is prepared every seven years. The Program is a planning tool and not a design tool for recommended improvements to the pavement network. Private streets are not included as they are the maintenance responsibility of the development or HOA. A program is a requirement by OCTA to be eligible for Measure M funds. Individual streets are ranked by condition, 0 being the lowest and 100 being the highest.

Arterial roadways are eligible for grant funding. Staff continually applies for grants where appropriate. Residential streets are locally funded resulting in more limited resources. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Spencer left at 7:05 PM

## **G. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- G-1. Gravity Sewer Installation and Sewer Lift Station Demolition, Oceanhill Drive, from Adams Avenue and Beach Boulevard to Oceanhill Drive (CC 1368) - Andrew Ferrigno presented the item. The existing sewer lift station was constructed in 1978 and was recommended for replacement. During the preliminary design stage, staff determined a gravity sewer alternative was feasible. The gravity sewer will flow easterly on Oceanhill Drive, northerly on Beach Boulevard, and easterly on Adams Avenue where it will connect to a sewer main.

The Encroachment Permit has been secured from Caltrans. Traffic will be impacted at Beach Boulevard and Adams Avenue for the tie in that will take 30-45 days to complete. The south bound lanes of Beach Boulevard will also be impacted. The anticipated start date of the project is February 2011. Staff is aware this puts construction in the rainy season; however, a goal was to have the project completed by summer to not impact summer beach traffic.

Travis Hopkins thanked staff members Tony Olmos, Todd Broussard, and Andrew Ferrigno for development the project.

Motion by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Herbel to recommend to City Council the Gravity Sewer Installation and Sewer Lift Station Demolition, Oceanhill Drive Project, CC-1368.

VOTE: The motion carried.  
AYES: 6  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: 1 (Spencer)  
ABSTENTIONS: 0

#### **H. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **I. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS**

- I-1. Report from 15% Infrastructure Calculation Sub-Committee - Nothing new to report.

Chair Siersema suggested the purchase of a mobile video camera that could be used for traffic counts throughout the city.

Commissioner Herbel spoke about the erosion of the bluffs that is jeopardizing the bike path. Todd Broussard responded the Corp of Engineers previously looked at this issue. The Coastal Commission does not look favorably at the shoring of slopes.

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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Michael Siersema  
Chair



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Joyce Greene  
Administrative Assistant

